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Elimination of racism and racial discrimination: comprehensive implementation of and follow-up to the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action

Global efforts for the total elimination of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance and the comprehensive implementation of and follow-up to the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action

Report of the Secretary-General*

Summary

The present report is submitted in accordance with General Assembly resolution 58/160. It focuses on activities undertaken by States, the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, United Nations bodies, specialized agencies, international and regional organizations, national human rights institutions, non-governmental organizations and youth groups and organizations to implement the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action adopted by the World Conference against Racism, Racial Discrimination, Xenophobia and Related Intolerance.

* The late submission of the present report is due, on the one hand, to the late reply by most States to the note verbale sent on 3 May 2004 and, on the other hand, to delays by Conference Services in delivering translated documents.

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I. Introduction

1. In its resolution 58/160, the General Assembly requested the Secretary-General to submit a report on the implementation of the resolution to the Assembly at its fifty-ninth session. In the interest of consolidating information relating to global efforts towards the total elimination of racism that is available to the Assembly from other sources, the present report focuses on activities relating to the comprehensive implementation of and follow-up to the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action adopted by the World Conference against Racism, Racial Discrimination, Xenophobia and Related Intolerance. In this regard, reference is made to reports previously submitted on the comprehensive implementation of the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action to the Commission on Human Rights at its fifty-eighth, fifty-ninth and sixtieth session (E/CN.4/2002/21, E/CN.4/2003/18 and E/CN.4/2004/17) and to the General Assembly at its fifty-seventh and fifty-eighth session (A/57/443 and A/58/324).

2. On 3 May 2004, the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) sent notes verbales and letters to States, United Nations bodies and specialized agencies, international and regional organizations, national human rights institutions and non-governmental organizations (NGOs) requesting information on follow-up and implementation activities undertaken in the context of the World Conference. The responses received are summarized in the present report.

II. Implementation of and follow-up to the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action

A. Member States

3. Following a request for technical assistance, OHCHR has funded the elaboration of a national plan of action against racism by the Government of Argentina that seeks to involve all relevant sectors of society. The Government reported that a core team was set up to conduct interviews on the theme of discrimination. The drafting process proper of the national plan of action will commence upon completion of the cycle of visits to the interior of the country to gather input from groups vulnerable to racism.

4. The Government of Azerbaijan reported that the Public Health Care Act of 26 June 1997 provides for State protection in the field of health care, notably through free access to medical treatment, including for stateless persons and aliens permanently residing in Azerbaijan. Pursuant to the Acquired Immunodeficiency Syndrome (AIDS) Act of 16 April 1996, the State ensures that Azerbaijanis with HIV/AIDS receive specialized care, as do resident aliens and stateless persons. Regarding indigenous peoples, article 25 of the Constitution of 12 November 1995 guarantees equality in rights and freedoms for all, irrespective of race, ethnicity, religion, language, gender or origin. A presidential decree of 16 September 1992 on protection of the rights and freedoms of ethnic minorities preserves and develops the cultural, linguistic and religious identity of ethnic minorities. Article 10 of the Labour Migration Act of 28 October 1999 allows migrant workers and their families to enjoy equal social protection with Azerbaijani citizens. The Criminal Code of Azerbaijan seeks to combat trafficking in persons, and trading in human organs and

tissues. A national plan of action to combat trafficking in persons was ratified by order of the President on 6 May 2004.

5. The Campaign against Racism in the Czech Republic includes dissemination of literature on multicultural themes and minorities, awareness-raising, intercultural workshops for children, visits of multi-ethnic teams of instructors to secondary schools, and lectures on tolerance for primary school children. The Government has adopted an Anti-discrimination Act in principle, which regulates the right to equal treatment and to protection against discrimination, sets out a legal framework for the application of positive action, and sets out entitlements for victims. Projects on national minorities within the National Strategy for the Police Force were tested in 2003, such as the Shared World project involving North Moravian police officers. Training activities were carried out while the conduct of police officers was regularly monitored. The Government also encourages Roma to apply for jobs in the police force. A seminar was jointly held in 2003 with OHCHR on the implementation of the Durban outcome. With regard to employment, measures were taken to integrate risk groups, such as the Roma community. The PHARE programme, the Roma Integration Support programme, and the Reform of Multicultural Education programme facilitate education in minority languages.

6. The policy of the Government of Denmark for eliminating racial discrimination against non-citizens residing in the country includes both legislative and programmatic initiatives. On 1 January 2003, the Danish Institute for Human Rights was established with competence, inter alia, to promote non-discrimination, assist victims of discrimination, conduct independent surveys on discrimination, publish independent reports and make recommendations to further the equal treatment of all persons. On 1 July 2003, the Act on Equal Treatment Irrespective of Ethnic Origin entered into force, granting the Danish Institute for Human Rights the prerogative to hear appeals, express an authoritative opinion and offer free legal aid. In November 2003, Denmark adopted its Action Plan to Promote Equal Treatment and Diversity.

7. The Integrated Action Plan for the Social Integration of Greek Roma of the Government of Greece is being implemented under the responsibility of an inter-ministerial committee. This plan aims at eliminating social disparities, promoting social integration of Greek Roma. In the field of migration, a legal framework ensures that aliens enjoy the same social security rights and social protection as Greek nationals. An "Immigration Guide" has been distributed in several languages. Legislation guaranteeing the right to family reunification and equal treatment of persons irrespective of racial or ethnic origin will be adopted soon. An Institute for Migration Policy has been set up. The General Secretariat for Gender Equality monitored the situation of female refugees in centres for asylum-seekers and made proposals to improve their condition.

8. The Republic of Korea took measures to improve the human rights of migrants and refugees. Voting rights were granted to temporary residents through the Resident Voting Act of 29 January 2004 and, as of April 2004, permanent residence status was granted to foreigners in residence for five years. Foreigners married to citizens could become naturalized after the same period. The Government took steps to improve the situation of refugees' access to employment. In July 2003, the National Assembly passed the Foreign Workers Employment Act, granting legal status to formerly illegal foreign workers and introducing an employment licensing

system. Since January 2003, free legal counsel is provided to vulnerable groups. In two regions of the country, 24-hour safehouses provide translation in English and Russian, emergency protection, and legal and medical assistance to non-citizens forced into prostitution.

9. The Government of Kuwait provides services on the basis of equality among all individuals without any distinction as to sex, origin, language or religion, in accordance with article 29 of its Constitution. Kuwait is fully committed to abiding by its international commitments. According to the Government, there is no form of discrimination based on colour, sex or religion in Kuwait, nor have there been any problems or acts of related intolerance involving nationals, migrants or any other group present on its territory. The right to seek a legal remedy is guaranteed to everyone and the judiciary adjudicates such cases independently.

10. The Government of Mexico established a National Council for the Prevention of Discrimination (CONAPRED) on 27 March 2004. CONAPRED has formulated opinions on legislative reforms concerning the rights of disabled persons and the law on the National Institute for Women. It has also investigated complaints of discrimination by public servants and non-State actors. Handbooks were developed on "Discrimination on the basis of ethnic origin" and "Discrimination in the history of Mexico". In the field of education and awareness-raising, CONAPRED notably cooperates with the National Commission for Human Rights and is planning to publish children's stories on the respect for diversity. The CONAPRED anti-discrimination campaign was supported by the media.

11. The Government of Poland adopted the National Action Plan for Countering Racial Discrimination, Xenophobia and Related Intolerance on 18 May 2004. The Plan will be implemented over a five-year period. It includes measures in the sphere of research, statistics, education, culture, health, the media, employment and social services for refugees, persons belonging to national and ethnic minorities, migrants and other vulnerable groups. Several long-term projects are ongoing, notably to enhance the capacity of the public administration to coordinate, strengthen and enforce the Government's anti-discrimination policy. A pool of human rights trainers specialized in anti-discrimination was set up to train civil servants, law enforcement personnel and teachers. An amended Labour Code entered into force on 1 May 2004, banning direct and indirect discrimination on grounds of, inter alia, gender, race, ethnic origin, religion, belief, disability, sexual orientation, or membership of a trade union.

12. The Republic of Slovenia is implementing legal and judicial measures to combat racism, including the implementation of cultural rights of national and ethnic minorities. Within the Slovenian police force, measures have been introduced to fight against discrimination by (i) a special Intranet page on human rights; (ii) an interaction project between the Roma population and the police force; (iii) a human rights publication for the police; and (iv) the distribution of the European Code of Police Ethics to Slovenian police. Positive measures aimed at providing equal opportunities for minorities to participate in cultural events and to protect the collective and individual cultural rights of minorities are taken with the support of the media, as prescribed by the Public Media Act.

13. The Government of the Syrian Arab Republic guarantees public freedoms, including the freedom of belief and the right to work. According to the Syrian authorities, there are no forms of discrimination or xenophobia in the country.

B. Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights

14. The main focus of OHCHR is to follow up the effective implementation of the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action by collecting information on initiatives taken by interested stakeholders while focusing on servicing established follow-up mechanisms and other meetings, providing technical cooperation to partners, strengthening inter-agency coordination, expanding liaison with non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and youth organizations, and launching a series of publications and other awareness-raising and outreach material.

15. OHCHR serviced human rights bodies and meetings as follows:

First meeting of the independent eminent experts on the implementation of the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action (Geneva, 16-18 September 2003; see E/CN.4/2004/112);

Third session of the Working Group of Experts on People of African Descent (Geneva, 29 September-10 October 2003; see E/CN.4/2004/21);

Second session of the Intergovernmental Working Group on the Effective implementation of the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action (Geneva, 26 January-6 February 2004; see E/CN.4/2004/20);

Two regional expert seminars to study modalities for the implementation of the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action, hosted respectively by the Government of the Czech Republic in Prague for Eastern European countries from 24 to 26 September 2003 (see E/CN.4/2004/17/Add.1) and by the Government of Belgium in Brussels for Western European countries from 10 to 12 December 2003 (see E/CN.4/2004/17/Add.2). Some 12 experts presented background papers informing the deliberations.

16. Technical cooperation was provided in the form of grants or financial support:

Grant to the Government of Argentina for drafting a national action plan to combat racism;

Financial support to national human rights institutions in Mexico, Venezuela, Fiji, Mongolia and Niger for projects on awareness-raising in the area of racism;

A small grants scheme under the Assisting Communities Together (ACT) project, by which NGOs, grass-roots organizations and schools received financial support for action-oriented initiatives in the field of education against racism in Burundi, Chad, Ethiopia, Mauritania, Cambodia, Indonesia, Mongolia, Kyrgyzstan, Romania, Serbia and Montenegro, Barbados, Colombia, Nicaragua and Uruguay. The ceiling of each grant was roughly US$ 5,000, the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) being the OHCHR implementing partner at the country level.

17. OHCHR undertook cooperation with United Nations bodies, specialized agencies, and international and regional intergovernmental organizations:

(a) As the lead agency responsible for the United Nations anti-discrimination programme, OHCHR cooperated with the special procedures of the Commission on Human Rights, United Nations bodies and specialized agencies, and international

and regional organizations. Experts from the Committee for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination (CERD), the United Nations Voluntary Fund for Technical Cooperation, the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), the World Bank, the International Monetary Fund, the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD), the International Labour Organization (ILO), the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) and the European Commission against Racism and Intolerance (ECRI) participated in the Working Group of Experts on People of African Descent and/or at the Intergovernmental Working Group. The Special Rapporteur on contemporary forms of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance, the Special Rapporteur on the right to education and the independent expert on extreme poverty also contributed to the deliberations of one or the other follow-up mechanism;

(b) At the Conference on Anti-Semitism convened by the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) in Berlin in April 2004, an OHCHR representative made a presentation on the role of CERD, the Special Rapporteur on contemporary forms of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance and the OHCHR Anti-Discrimination Unit in the monitoring of anti-Semitism. Since then, a process of consultations is ongoing with the OSCE Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights (ODIHR) to explore avenues for future cooperation. OHCHR also played an active role at the OSCE meeting on the relationship between racism, xenophobic and anti-Semitic propaganda on the Internet and hate crimes, held in Paris in June 2004;

(c) OHCHR participated in the official launch of the project "The abolition of slavery route", jointly organized by UNESCO and the Government of France in Champagney, France, in April 2004. Cooperation will be pursued in this respect.

18. Liaison with NGOs, including youth groups, included the following:

(a) Sharing information on a regular basis and facilitating NGO and youth participation in meetings, seminars and workshops to which the Anti-Discrimination Unit is invited or convenes;

(b) OHCHR encouraged NGO action against racism by facilitating the participation of the Special Rapporteur on contemporary forms of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance in the session of the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights held in Washington in March 2004;

(c) Training on international standards against racism and on the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action was provided for a post-graduate course on "Gender, minorities and indigenous peoples" in Maracaibo, Venezuela, in March 2004 and to a panel on multiple forms of discrimination faced by women in Quito in March 2004;

(d) A workshop for NGOs and youth organizations on the "Implementation of the recommendations of the World Conference against Racism" was organized by the OHCHR Sub-Regional Centre for Human Rights and Democracy for Central Africa in Yaoundé in July 2004, with the substantive support of the Anti-Discrimination Unit;

(e) OHCHR organized and sponsored a round table for young people at the World Youth Festival in Barcelona, Spain, in August 2004 under the title "Stand up

against racism!". The Anti-Discrimination Unit also moderated a session on the "Dialogue among Civilizations" at the United Nations Graduate Study Programme in Geneva in July 2004.

19. Publications, awareness-raising and outreach activities included the following:

(a) The World Health Organization (WHO), the Joint United Nations Programme on AIDS (UNAIDS) and OHCHR jointly produced a comic book entitled "HIV/AIDS: Stand up for Human Rights";

(b) Following a workshop jointly organized by OHCHR and UNESCO on the theme "Combating racism and fostering tolerance", a book is being published by OHCHR under the title "Dimensions of racism" in English, French and Spanish;

(c) OHCHR field presences organized a drawing contest for students in Colombia, Mexico, Mongolia, South Africa and the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia to highlight the Universal Declaration of Human Rights to promote human rights awareness among students. The selected drawings have served to illustrate a new OHCHR poster on the Universal Declaration, already issued in the six official languages of the Organization;

(d) A panel discussion on "Intercultural dialogue: a means to combat racism" was convened in Geneva on 21 March 2004 to commemorate the International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination.

C. United Nations bodies, specialized agencies, international and regional organizations

20. The United Nations Department of Public Information launched an anti-racism programme in the framework of the World Public Information Campaign, the United Nations Decade for Human Rights Education and the International Decade of the World's Indigenous People. "UN Works" produced and distributed a poster entitled "What colour are you?" and a 30-minute documentary profiling children struggling to overcome the impact of intolerance and violence in Northern Ireland.

21. Many of the activities of United Nations information centres (UNICs) in the follow-up to the World Conference were undertaken in connection with the International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination. UNIC Panama City organized a 10-day interactive film presentation on discrimination and a conference on the impact of the World Conference in Panama. UNIC Rio de Janeiro launched a book entitled *Contemporary Racism*. UNIC Beirut provided background documents, reports and materials for the Beirut daily *Al-Balad* which focused its Sunday, 21 March 2004, United Nations page on the International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination. UNIC Dhaka organized a discussion and a short drama on racism. An exhibition entitled "A kilometre against racism" was organized by UNIC Mexico City, and consisted of 2,000 drawings made by children. UNIC Ouagadougou organized a forum on the theme "Combat racism and xenophobia: a contribution to the prevention of genocides". UNIC Rome assisted the Silvio Pellico high school in the preparation of a CD-ROM on the theme of racial discrimination which is being distributed to schools throughout Italy. A book containing the Italian version of the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action was also launched. An exhibition of children's photographs was organized by UNIC Prague in January

2003. UNIC Rabat organized a seminar to observe the International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination.

22. The United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA) is placing discrimination and intolerance at the top of its agenda and programme of work. The Declaration of the Arab Decade on Disabled Persons for the years 2004-2012 has been adopted by the Arab Ministers of Social Affairs. As a result, ESCWA organized an Expert Group Meeting on Information and Communication Technologies for Persons with Disabilities in May 2004. ESCWA is also preparing a regional report on integrated social policies, utilizing pertinent social indicators to address specific strategic challenges facing Arab countries in formulating, implementing and monitoring effective social policies.

23. The UNESCO Integrated Strategy to Combat Racism, Discrimination, Xenophobia and Related Intolerance (32C/13), adopted by the thirty-second session of its General Conference, has notably generated the establishment of the International Coalition of Cities against Racism that are committed to an ethical and political charter that takes a firm position against racist ideologies and discriminatory practices. Additionally, an expert meeting for Europe took place on 9 and 10 July in Nuremberg aiming at drafting a regional action plan. In parallel, a research programme has been launched to develop indicators on racism and discrimination, thereby allowing an assessment of the implementation of the 10-point action plan.

24. UNESCO organized in May 2004, in collaboration with the City of Nantes, France, the World Forum on Human Rights at which was discussed, inter alia, "Globalization and the struggle against all forms of discrimination and exclusion" and "The humanism of human rights and the barbarity of the slave trade". UNESCO also organized or participated in the following international conferences dealing with racism, discrimination and intolerance: "National images of the world: unity, diversity and justice", Republic of Moldova, October 2003; "Migrations: social and intercultural aspects of sustainable development", Moscow, March 2004; and "The promotion of ideas of tolerance and the fight against discrimination: the role of local authorities", Russian Federation, March 2004 and Georgia, June 2004. The celebration of the International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination focused on the commemoration of the abolition of slavery.

25. UNHCR actively contributed to the thematic discussion on the rights of non-citizens at CERD. Moreover, refugee-related issues addressed during the World Conference are now integrated into its strategic planning. UNHCR has initiated a broad range of activities at the operational level to prevent racist attacks and discrimination against refugees and to counter the current hostile climate vis-à-vis asylum-seekers and refugees. Such efforts include providing legal counselling services to refugees. "Peaceful Coexistence Initiatives" to promote tolerance as a vital dimension of relief, rehabilitation and reconciliation were successfully tested in the context of refugee return operations in Bosnia and Herzegovina and Rwanda and recently in Sri Lanka and Côte d'Ivoire. In many other countries, UNHCR provided educational materials to schools, in order to enhance understanding of refugee issues. It cooperated with the United Kingdom Press Complaints Commission, which issued guidelines urging journalists and editors to ensure that their reporting did not encourage xenophobia. In early 2004, UNHCR launched

"Return Afghanistan", a photo exhibition by the Swiss photographer Zalmaï, a former Afghan refugee, which provided moving testimony of the plight of refugees.

26. The work of UNODC is guided by the "Vienna Declaration on Crime and Justice: Meeting the Challenges of the Twenty-First Century" and its plans of action (General Assembly resolution 55/59, annex) encouraging States to take steps to incorporate into their national crime prevention strategies measures to prevent and combat crimes inspired by or associated with racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance. UNODC thus helps States to build a capacity for criminal law reform. This Office is also developing a practical manual on the application of the Guidelines for the Prevention of Crime (Economic and Social Council resolution 2002/13, annex), which also covers programmes aimed at preventing xenophobia and specific issues relating to migrants at the community level. In accordance with paragraph 78 (m) of the Durban Programme of Action, UNODC advocates the ratification of the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and its protocols, and urges their speedy entry into force. UNODC will assist with the implementation of these instruments. Through its Global Programme against Trafficking in Human Beings UNODC raises awareness of the trafficking in human beings, strengthens institutional capacity to tackle this scourge, trains law enforcement officials, advises on the drafting of relevant national legislation, and enhances victim and witness support programmes.

27. The United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat) considers policies and activities regarding human settlements and housing, individuals and groups suffering from racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance, and vulnerable and disadvantaged groups. In this context, it has intensified its work for inclusive cities and the realization of the right to adequate housing. The Millennium Development Goal to achieve, by 2020, significant improvement in the lives of at least 100 million slum-dwellers (United Nations Millennium Declaration, para. 19) is its guiding principle. The Global Campaign on Urban Governance promotes inclusiveness in urban decision-making as well as in policy and programme implementation. The advocacy and operational work of the Campaign in 32 cities aims at fostering inclusiveness amidst complex diversity and focuses on vulnerable groups. The Global Campaign for Secure Tenure, launched in July 2000, is an advocacy instrument designed to promote the right of the urban poor to participate in processes of settlement upgrading and urban development. Recently, tools and action plans have been developed through the "Three Cities Project" campaign already launched in India, South Africa, the Philippines, Jamaica, Namibia, Brazil and Senegal. UN-Habitat also reported on the "Cities Alliance", a joint initiative of the World Bank, UN-Habitat and other partners aimed at improving the quality of life in slums. Currently, more than 100 slums are being upgraded through this initiative. The United Nations Housing Rights Programme (UNHRP), a joint initiative of OHCHR and UN-Habitat, includes research on the housing rights of indigenous peoples. A set of indicators to monitor the progressive realization of the human right to adequate housing was proposed at an expert group meeting held in Geneva in November 2003, highlighting the need to collect disaggregated data by, inter alia, race and ethnicity. The problem of discrimination is also at the heart of the analytical report that is being prepared on "Housing rights legislation". A regional consultation on the right to adequate housing was convened in Bangkok in June 2004 and focused on the importance of non-discrimination in the sphere of housing.

28. The World Food Programme (WFP) Statement of Humanitarian Principles, recently adopted by its Executive Board, includes the principle of impartiality as a key component: "WFP's assistance will be guided solely by needs and will not discriminate in terms of ethnic origin, nationality, political opinion, gender, race or religion. In a country, assistance will be targeted to those most at risk from the consequences of food shortages, following a sound assessment that considers the different needs and vulnerabilities of women, men and children."

29. The International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) organized, in 2003, special Action to Reduce Discrimination. Its briefing paper entitled "Reducing discrimination" states that between July 2003 and July 2004 several reviews, case studies and training courses were carried out on the subject of discrimination in Europe, South Asia, North Africa and Central America. A database of good practices is to be further developed in consultation with partners. National societies often address discrimination from the angle of tolerance and respect for others, such as the "Friendship without Borders" programme organized in the Balkan region. In December 2003, the Council of Delegates adopted resolution 9 on "Promoting respect for diversity and fighting discrimination and intolerance". In addition, at its 28th International Conference of the Red Cross and Red Crescent, the Federation adopted a pledge on non-discrimination and respect for diversity, and subsequently published research papers and training material on these issues.

30. OSCE/ODIHR has established a programme on tolerance and discrimination. The programme is based on mandates contained in the Maastricht Ministerial Council Decision on Tolerance and Non-Discrimination (No. 4/03, December 2003) and the Permanent Council Decision on Combating anti-Semitism (No. 607, April 2004). In 2004, the programme focused on the collection and compilation of information on hate crimes in the 55 participating OSCE States. A workshop, "Hate crimes legislation", for State authorities will be held in the autumn of 2004, in full cooperation with CERD, ECRI and the European Union Monitoring Centre on Racism and Xenophobia (EUMC), as well as relevant NGOs. An expert study has been commissioned to provide a general overview of the activities against racism, related intolerance and discrimination by international bodies acting in the OSCE region. The work of the ODIHR Advisory Panel of Experts on Freedom of Religion or Belief also forms part of this programme. An important component of the programme will be the establishment of a network of partner NGOs to supply data on racist incidents and assist with the monitoring of hate crimes and violent manifestations of racism, xenophobia, anti-Semitism and discrimination. Reports on information collected were made available to the OSCE Permanent Council in July 2004 and will be shared with the Human Dimension Implementation Meeting in Warsaw in October 2004.

31. Within the framework of its Action Plan on Improving the Situation of Roma and Sinti within the OSCE area, the ODIHR Contact Point for Roma and Sinti Issues (CPRSI) is focusing on increasing the participation of Roma in democratic processes. In March 2004, CPRSI organized an international workshop in Prague on models of involving Roma in appointed positions within local and regional administrations. In April 2004, CPRSI and the Romanian Parliament's Chamber of Deputies co-organized an international conference on participation of Roma and minority women in politics.

32. ECRI highlighted the adoption of Protocol No. 12 to the European Convention on Human Rights — containing a general prohibition of discrimination. ECRI further encouraged member States to elaborate national action plans against racism and provided guidance for this process. It has also launched awareness campaigns on racism and intolerance and a package of educational materials for youth. Finally, ECRI has supported non-formal education efforts of NGOs.

33. The European Commission supported the European Union member States' efforts to implement the provisions of the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action. The entry into force of Directives 2000/43/EC and 2000/78/EC considerably strengthened the level of legal protection against discrimination across the European Union, both backed up by an action programme (2001-2006). Twenty-five new projects were launched in the spring of 2004.

34. The European Commission (EC) intensified its activity in tackling social exclusion and discrimination affecting Roma in the enlarged EU. It hosted a conference on the issue in Brussels in April 2004, notably with the participation of Roma representatives. The Commission plans to publish a study on "Roma in an enlarged European Union" in the autumn of 2004. Furthermore, the communication from the Commission on immigration, integration and employment adopted on 3 June 2003 (COM (2003) 336 final) underscores the importance of the fight against discrimination in the integration of legal migrants in Europe by calling for strong political leadership and a clear commitment to promote pluralistic societies and to condemn racism. On 29 April 2004, the European Council adopted a directive on compensation for victims of crimes, including racial crimes. The European Commission's White Paper, "A new impetus for European youth", is in line with the European Council Declaration on Racism and Intolerance in relation to Young People adopted on 28 May 2004. The European Initiative for Democracy and Human Rights pays special attention to the rights of minorities, the rights of indigenous peoples and the issue of caste discrimination, including in relation to non-European countries.

35. In December 2003, the European Council took the decision to extend the mandate of EUMC to become the Fundamental Rights Agency of the European Union. EUMC, based in Vienna, supports the work of the European Union by providing objective, reliable data on racism, xenophobia, Islamophobia and anti-Semitism. Its annual report, with a particular emphasis on racial violence and racial discrimination in education and employment in EU Member States, was presented to the European Parliament. In March 2004, the EUMC issued a report on "Manifestations of anti-Semitism in the EU". A second report, entitled "Perceptions of anti-Semitism in the European Union", compiles interviews with members of the Jewish community in the European Union on their perceptions of anti-Semitism.

36. The European Parliament dedicated a special section of its Report on Fundamental Rights in the European Union to racism and xenophobia. During a hearing organized by the Committee on Justice, Home Affairs and Citizens Rights on 21 January 2004, the question of racism and discrimination was raised by participating NGOs.

D. National human rights institutions

37. The Centre for the Equality of Opportunities and the Struggle against Racism of Belgium provided OHCHR with its comprehensive national action plan against racism. The plan promotes diversity, tolerance and equal treatment to combat discrimination.

38. The Fiji Human Rights Commission established a Race Relations Unit that recently issued a report on Fiji's obligations under the International Convention for the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination, which eventually led to the creation of a parliamentary committee mandated to examine all reports relating to human rights and race relations in the country. Moreover, a library has been set up with the support of OHCHR. The Race Relations Unit is also preparing a workshop on "human rights for nationalists", in which race would be a key issue, and will be developing flyers, handouts, posters, brochures and postcards to promote peaceful race relations in Fiji.

39. The annual report on racism and xenophobia for the year 2003 of the National Consultative Commission on Human Rights of France evaluates the racist phenomenon from a statistical perspective, with an overview of activities undertaken by the judiciary in this field, and contains a survey on racism and xenophobia, in addition to specific studies on anti-Semitism and Islamophobia. The report also addresses measures taken by the Government and NGOs to combat racism and xenophobia.

40. The Greek National Commission for Human Rights co-organized a conference in April 2003 on the application of European anti-discrimination legislation that was attended by representatives of governmental and non-governmental organizations from Germany, Greece, Ireland, Lithuania and Slovenia. The Commission helped harmonize national legislation with international and European norms regarding discrimination. It has conducted consultations on race issues. It has translated into Greek and published a booklet entitled "International human rights standards for law enforcement: a pocket book for the police". The booklet attempts to change the negative perception of and attitudes towards the police. At present, the Commission is developing a series of TV spots aimed notably at addressing discriminatory attitudes towards immigrants and the Roma community.

41. The National Human Rights Commission of the Republic of Korea is in the process of drafting the Discrimination Prohibition Act, to be promulgated by the end of 2004. Racial discrimination, hate crimes and intolerance will be explicitly prohibited. Furthermore, it is developing the framework for a national action plan for human rights. The Commission has also conducted studies on groups that are vulnerable to racial discrimination, in particular children of the prostitutes working near United States military bases, Chinese residents in Korea and children of migrant workers. The studies show that ethnic minorities face severe discrimination and are systematically marginalized. The Commission is developing a minority index with a view to facilitating affirmative action for minorities. Finally, the Commission published a book on the rights of migrant workers and a textbook on the work of CERD, and produced a movie on human rights.

42. With the support of OHCHR, the National Human Rights Commission of Mongolia conducted a study on the rights of the Tsaatan national minority. It organized a round table to present the findings of the study and developed a TV

documentary to educate the public about the rights of the Tsaatan people. On the basis of the study, specific recommendations were formulated for the attention of the Government.

43. The Human Rights Commission of New Zealand, in its publication "On the bright side", acknowledged contributions to positive race relations in the areas of sports, law, business, education, the arts, tourism, migration, political participation and the media.

44. In 2003, the National Commission for Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms of Niger, with the support of OHCHR, conducted a study on contemporary forms of slavery in the country, with the double objective of sensitizing key actors on its manifestations and proposing concrete measures to political leaders for combating slavery.

45. The South African Human Rights Commission has the responsibility to request, analyse and assess equality reports from the State and public and private institutions under the Promotion of Equality and Prevention of Unfair Discrimination Act. In addition, it is tasked with assisting vulnerable groups in bringing their cases to court. The Commission also completed diversity training with the police, medical personnel, social workers, civil servants, educators and private companies. It also played a central role in inserting anti-discrimination principles into school curricula. Through the Forum on Racism in Education, the Commission intends to develop a racial index with the purpose of proposing informed intervention. Plans are under way to undertake an Equality Barometer study that will evaluate the Government's structural policies to reduce discrimination based on race, gender and disability. The Commission contributed to the development of the National Action Plan against Racism. Finally, as a result of complaints received, the Commission held a series of hearings around the country on human rights violations in farming communities, the results of which were published in a report.

46. The Federal Commission against Racism of Switzerland produced a report on the current status of the struggle against racism in the country. Besides acting as a mediator in conflicts between the police and people of African descent, it has launched specific programmes and research activities on racism suffered by people of African descent. The Federal Commission against Racism published research studies on "The exclusion of asylum-seekers with provisional admission status in Switzerland" and on "The status of minority religions in the Swiss cantons". The Commission also contributed to the published annotated version of the Durban outcome. The autumn 2004 bulletin of the Federal Commission, called "Tangram", will be devoted entirely to health and racism, one of the major topics identified for discussion by the Working Group of Experts on People of African Descent and the Intergovernmental Working Group.

47. The Defensoría del Pueblo of Venezuela provided OHCHR with a report on activities it had undertaken to implement the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action. Its sphere of competence covers mainly legal analysis and advice, advocacy on behalf of victim groups and support for action plans, including programmes of affirmative action that would benefit in particular victims of racial discrimination in the areas of employment, housing, and education.

E. Non-governmental organizations

48. The Urban Justice Center Human Rights Project, based in New York City, promotes respect for the provisions of the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination and the implementation of general comments and recommendations emanating from CERD. This effort, undertaken in conjunction with other NGOs working in the field of human rights, entails working at the city government level as well as with community-based organizations to ensure that in the process of developing and adopting new legislation, those affected by racism and racial discrimination are taken into account. The Project is involved in the Right to Education Project, a project aimed at training public high school students to document violations of the right to education, including discrimination, in their schools.

49. The European Jewish Congress and the World Jewish Congress noted that violence against Jewish communities continued to rise, including anti-Semitism in the media and among the public at large. Anti-Semitism seems more focused on the State of Israel, while previously it was mainly directed at Judaism as a religion. To this effect, the European Jewish Congress referred to important initiatives by OSCE, the European Commission and the Council of Europe. During the Regional Expert Seminar to Study Modalities for the Implementation of the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action, organized by OHCHR in Brussels in December 2003, Jewish NGO representatives stated that anti-Semitism stems not only from far-right racist groups but also, increasingly, from new directions.

50. The mission of the Anti-Defamation League is, notably, to combat anti-Semitism and bigotry and to monitor and respond to anti-Semitic attitudes. It publishes monthly reports highlighting acts of anti-Semitism. In April 2004, the League released an opinion survey entitled "Attitudes towards Jews, Israel and the Palestinian-Israel Conflict in ten European Countries". The countries surveyed were Austria, Belgium, Denmark, France, Italy, Germany, the Netherlands, Spain, Switzerland and the United Kingdom. The poll found a decrease in anti-Semitic attitudes in almost all the countries surveyed. The League considers that when leaders and institutions speak out and take action to combat anti-Semitism, not only does the number of acts of anti-Semitism decrease, but so do negative attitudes towards Jews.

51. The Grail, an international movement of Christian women concerned with the advancement of women, organized a visit by Muslim women from Turkey, Serbia and Albania to a synagogue in Duisburg, Germany, during "Cultural Week". The women were interested to learn more about Jewish life and the practice of the religion. By visiting the synagogue, they wanted to express their desire for peaceful coexistence among all religions and peoples. They discovered many commonalities in Judaism and Islam.

52. The Women's Zionist Organization of America, Hadassah, supports and administers a number of humanitarian activities, primarily in Israel, and focuses on promoting human rights, women's rights and peace among nations. The organization cited cases of peaceful coexistence between Arabs and Jews. Hadassah matches youth volunteers with organizations working to strengthen democracy and supports social justice in areas such as human rights, especially the right to health and women's rights, Jewish and Arab coexistence, as well as projects to bring together

Arab and Jewish children. It tries to build a constructive future based on brotherhood, assisting children to improve educationally and helping them to address psychological problems.

53. In its report, B'nai Brith praised the Secretary-General's opening remarks at the Seminar on Anti-Semitism organized by the Department of Public Information of the Secretariat in New York on 21 June 2004. In his statement, the Secretary-General said that the United Nations human rights machinery was mobilizing in the battle against anti-Semitism. He urged the Special Rapporteurs on freedom of religion or belief and on contemporary forms of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance to actively explore ways of combating anti-Semitism more effectively in the future. He also said that Member States could follow the excellent lead of the Berlin Declaration, which firmly condemned all manifestations of anti-Semitism, and other acts of intolerance, incitement, harassment, or violence against persons or communities based on ethnic origin or religious belief, wherever they occurred.

54. The Afro-Asian Peoples Solidarity Organization (AAPSO) organized in 2003 a conference in Cairo on the effects of regional and international incidents on human rights and a meeting on democracy and human rights was held. Its representatives participated in several panels, and organized workshops during the Commission on Human Rights and the Subcommission on the Promotion and Protection of Human Rights to follow up on the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action. AAPSO also organized a panel discussion on racial discrimination during the World Social Forum held in Mumbai, India, in 2004. Additionally, AAPSO has issued several statements on issues relating to racism and racial discrimination, including during the International Day of Solidarity with the Palestinian People, in November 2003.

55. The Institución Federada Afroumbandista of Uruguay worked with the media and Catholic schools to promote respect for diversity, including religious diversity and the defence of Umbanda and African forms of worship. At present, the organization has successfully lobbied for the amendment of national legislation dealing with freedom of religion and documented acts against practitioners of religions of African origin.

56. The English International Association of Lund, Sweden, in the past year has developed anti-discrimination strategies aimed at promoting a gender balance and the rights of people discriminated against on the basis of sexual orientation, physical disability or ethnic origin. It conducted awareness-raising by providing its services to the general public, teachers and students at all levels. The Association co-hosts a weekly programme on Radio AF International with the International Secretariat of the University of Lund. The target audience is foreign students and researchers, and first- and second-generation immigrants. It also provides legal assistance at the national and international level to victims of discrimination. It organized a conference on racial discrimination for Swedish universities and developed affirmative action policies for foreign-born teachers. The Association has also published a booklet entitled "Your legal rights, protection from discrimination in Sweden".

57. The Association of World Citizens has recently created a web site entitled "My human rights", in English and Chinese, which deals with the philosophy and practice of human rights. World Citizens in the last year has also worked in a refugee camp in Ghana to support refugees from Liberia. The organization provides

training in conflict resolution and promotes mutual understanding in preparing refugees for return to their home country.

58. Interfaith International actively participated in the sessions of the mechanisms established to follow up on the World Conference. During the second session of the Intergovernmental Working Group, Interfaith made a contribution on the subject of education for tolerance. It also submitted a report on intercultural dialogue to the independent eminent experts' meeting in September 2003.

59. The Canadian Race Relations Foundation facilitated the participation of civil society during the visit of the Special Rapporteur on contemporary forms of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance in his consultations with communities across Canada during his visit to the country. In March 2003, the Foundation convened an ad hoc round table on redress at its Awards of Excellence Symposium, in order to facilitate a discussion on redress and reparations among members of communities seeking redress in Canada, including the Chinese, Ukrainian, African Canadian and Jewish communities. The objective of the discussion was to develop strategies to continue the dialogue with governmental authorities. The Foundation has established an ad hoc committee to determine an appropriate course of action for the Foundation on that issue. The Foundation continues to play a central role in the ongoing discussion and development of knowledge about racial profiling. It has provided support to community-based initiatives within the African Canadian community to report on manifestations of racial profiling and best practices from other jurisdictions. It also continues to sensitize the policing services and other security-oriented agencies on racial profiling, to enhance education and training, and to lobby for systemic change. It provided expert testimony as a friend of the court on various hate/bias crime cases in the past year, including the incitement of hatred on the Internet, and hosted a biannual national award of excellence programme, celebrating organizations and individuals who lead by example in anti-racism practices, bringing together Canadian practitioners, academics, activists, community organizations, youth and Government. The last meeting focused on "Racism: breaking through the denial".

60. The Institute for Refugee and Minority Problems of the Caucasus region works primarily on programmes developing dialogue among Georgians and Abkhazians and Georgian and Ossetians and confidence-building measures. It also works on the integration of refugees from Chechnya and income-generation projects. From September 2003 until April 2004, during the Georgian presidential and parliamentary elections, the Institute worked to protect and promote ethnic minorities' rights by holding training sessions on electoral rights in the Armenian, Georgian, Russian and Azeri languages. The Institute has also broadcast television spots against religious intolerance and promoted dialogue among different faiths, targeting youth in particular.

61. The International Association of Lions Clubs is open to any person of legal age, good moral character and good reputation in the community. The organization is based in 193 countries. Members are accepted irrespective of their race, colour, religion, creed, national origin, ancestry, gender, marital status, age, disability, veteran status or any other legally protected status. During its 87 years of activity, the Association has demonstrated its stand against discriminations. The organization maintains a strict policy of non-discrimination in its hiring practices and affirms a policy of non-discrimination in all programmes and activities.

62. The Muslim World League at the United Nations Office at Geneva recalled the numerous activities organized since the preparatory phase of the World Conference, which included some 15 meetings and seminars attended by its representatives, two others organized under its auspices and some five publications, all relating to the fight against all forms of discrimination.

F. Youth groups and organizations

63. The Canadian Race Relations Foundation reported that the development of a National Youth Anti-Racism Network (NYAN) is well under way. The Network is being set up with the expert guidance of an ad hoc youth advisory committee made up of youth representatives from across Canada. The NYAN web site is a key component of the Network and will be on line in the coming months. In addition, a database of youth anti-racism contacts is being developed. The Canadian Race Relations Foundation also facilitated the participation of a representative of the organization Black Youth in Action at the sixtieth session of the Commission on Human Rights in Geneva.

64. The NGO MADRE, in Peru, is partnering with organizations of young people around the world to achieve the goals set forth in the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action. Offering resources, training and technical support, MADRE facilitates the work of young activists from marginalized communities as they struggle against racism. In Peru, MADRE works with LUNDÚ (the Centre for Afro-Peruvian Studies and Promotion), an organization of Afro-Peruvian youth working to promote respect for Peru's Afro-descendant population, by supporting arts education, including a workshop aimed at challenging stereotypes of people of African descent in Peru through the use of masks. In Guatemala, MADRE is helping T'al Nán K'oi, a youth group working to strengthen the relationship of the community with its Mayan heritage and to find solutions for extreme poverty. In Colombia, MADRE supports Taller de Vida, an organization providing services for displaced Afro-Colombian and indigenous youth. Among other activities, MADRE supported the creation of a video project in which young people document their experiences with war and displacement. Lastly, in the Dheisheh refugee camp in Palestine, MADRE works with the Ibdaa Cultural Centre to promote human rights, democratic processes and gender equality, empowering Palestinian youth to respond constructively to the violence permeating their lives and to channel fears and frustrations into progressive demands for change.

65. The Kenwood Oakland Community Organization in the United States organized a national youth conference in April 2004 under the title "Towards a common struggle: organizing a national agenda for a young people's movement". Over 400 young people from a diversity of backgrounds and representing six states participated in the conference, which focused on building leadership capacity and community-organizing skills in local communities, with the ultimate objective of building a nationwide multi-ethnic youth network against racism in the United States.

III. Conclusions

66. **The present report illustrates that States, United Nations bodies, specialized agencies, international and regional organizations as well as non-governmental organizations and youth groups and organizations are engaged in implementing the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action. It is to be noted that a larger number of stakeholders than previously responded to the request for information by OHCHR. Generally, one can note an increasing involvement by different actors in the implementation of the recommendations of the World Conference. The frequent manifestations of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance worldwide indicate, however, that further determined efforts to combat these phenomena, including close cooperation of all actors, are necessary.**